

Message Text

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12

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R 022305Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, ETRD, OVIP

SUBJECT PROPOSED VISIT BY COMMERCE MINISTER TO US

REF: A. DACCA 4749 B. STATE A-8452 OCT 9, 1973

1. BANGLADESH EMBASSY REPORTS THAT IT INQUIRED OF DACCA WHETHER MINCOM KAMARUZZAMAN IS ABOUT TO VISIT USA, AS EMBASSY HAD BEEN ALERTED BY STATE DEPARTMENT. REPLY RECEIVED NOV. 2 IS THAT PLANS NOT YET FINALIZED FOR VISIT. BD EMBASSY CANNOT PROCEED WITH DEFINITE PROGRAM FOR VISIT UNTIL IT RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS FROM DACCA TO DO SO. ALL PARTIES HERE AND IN BD ARE NO DOUBT AWARE THAT FULL PROGRAM OF APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES CANNOT BE LAID ON ALL AT LAST MINUTE.

2. IN BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS WITH BD EMBASSY PERSONNEL THE GENERAL OUTLINES OF A DESIRABLE PROGRAM FOR MINCOM HAVE EMERGED. IN ADDITION TO APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY DENT, USG CALLS SHOULD INCLUDE HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL (BUT NOT SECSTATE SINCE HE NOT EXPECTED TO BE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WASHINGTON DURING WEEK OF NOV. 11), AND OPIC. MINCOM

MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS WITH USG LIKELY EFFECTS ON BANGLADESH AND OTHER LDCS OF TRADE BILL NOW BEFORE CONGRESS, AND IN PARTICULAR TITLE ON GENERALIZED PREFERENCES (SEE REPAIR B).

3. IN ADDITION KAMARUZZAMAN SHOULD CONSIDER ARRANGING FORUM FROM WHICH TO ADDRESS AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY, WITH APPROPRIATE PRESS COVERAGE. LEVEL OF INTEREST AMONG US BUSINESSMEN IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND OVERALL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF BANGLADESH SUFFICIENTLY HIGH TO SAFELY PREDICT GOOD RESPONSE IF, FOR EXAMPLE, LUNCHEON WERE LAID ON WITH INVITATIONS TO SELECTED BANKERS, FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS, INTERNATIONAL TRADERS, AS WELL AS OFFICERS OF FIRMS ALREADY ACTIVE IN BD. DEPARTMENT CAN ASSIST IN MAKING INTRODUCTIONS, BUT BD EMBASSY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS. IT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT ANYTHING AS ELABORATE AS THIS CAN BE PUT TOGETHER WITH LESS THAN TWO WEEKS ADVANCE NOTICE.

4. OTHER LIKELY ITEMS IN MINISTER'S PROGRAM WILL BE CALLS ON SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN, RECEPTION BY BD AMBASSADOR, WORKING LUNCH AT STATE DEPARTMENT, AND DISCUSSIONS WITH COMPANIES AND TRADE ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO BD (E.G. JUTE, TEA).

5. FOR FULLER AND FRERES: BD EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER FOR VISIT WAS EXPECTED TO BE NEWLY ARRIVED FIRST SECRETARY (ECON.) NURUL ISLAM, WHO HAS ALREADY IMPRESSED STATE DESK WITH HIS COMPETENCE AND INTELLIGENCE. UNFORTUNATELY, ISLAM FLYING BACK TO DACCA BECAUSE OF FATHER'S CRITICAL ILLNESS. WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG HE WILL BE GONE, BUT IT WOULD BE MOST WORTHWHILE FOR YOU TO SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO MEET HIM WHILE HE IS IN DACCA. KISSINGER

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